

£14 million improvement works complete between Clitheroe and Manchester

24 August 2015

Train services between Bolton and Blackburn are running again following the successful completion of a £14million package of improvement works on the Clitheroe to Manchester route.

Lasting five weeks, the works have been funded by the Lancashire Local Enterprise Partnership and Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council and have seen the installation of additional track one mile either side of Darwen Station, which will provide extra capacity and enable a half hourly daytime service between Manchester and Blackburn in the future.

Network Rail area director Terry Strickland said: "We would like to thank passengers and our lineside neighbours for their patience during the works, which now complete will bring real long term benefits for all concerned."

Alex Hynes, Managing Director for Northern Rail said, "Improvements like this help us deliver better performance and provide a more reliable railway for our customers. The benefits of the scheme will allow more services to run between Manchester and Blackburn in the future."

Brian Bailey, Director of Growth and Prosperity, said: "As part of our wider plan for prosperity we have worked long and hard with our supporters, partners and funders, notably the Lancashire LEP, to deliver this strategic link. We are delighted that we now have a track capable of supporting an increased service frequency throughout the day between Blackburn and Darwen and Manchester. The next challenge is to ensure the government supports our campaign to introduce the additional trains on the line as soon as possible within the next Northern franchise which is to be let in April 2016."